J.P. Cranwell & William B. Crane Collection

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Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections
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Summary Information

Repository	Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections
Title	J.P. Cranwell & William B. Crane Collection
Date [inclusive]	1812-1815
Extent	2.5 Linear feet 4 boxes
Language	English
Abstract	This collection consists of research material collected by John Philips Cranwell and William Bowers Crane for their book Men of Marque: a history of private armed vessels out of Baltimore during the War of 1812. The book was published in 1940 by W. W. Norton & Co. [E360.C73] Additional contents include insurance records of Baltimore Privateers from the War of 1812 as well as a list of private vessels and owners of vessels between 1812-1815. Also included is a post office packet of 102 “named” ships as well as 28 miscellaneous “named “ ships.

Biographical/Historical note

Privateersmen were not pirates. The Oxford English Dictionary defines a privateer as “an armed vessel owned and officered by private persons, and holding a commission from the government called letters of marque, authorizing the owners to use it against a hostile nation, especially in the capture of merchant shipping.”

As Baltimore was an important port for shipping and commerce, many letters of marque had been given to the owners of schooners before the Embargo Act of 1812, and the blockade of the Atlantic ports by the British.

Scope and Contents

The collection includes the list of vessels and their owners from 1812-1815; the First Lieutenants; the prize lists of English and American ships, and the list of 130 vessels in alphabetical order of their post office packets. A special limited edition of Messrs. Cranwell and Crane book, autographed by the authors, is in the rare book section in Special Collections.

Arrangement

The collection consists of two series: Introductory Materials and Post Office Packets of 102 ships.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections

Conditions Governing Access

Unrestricted, open by appointment.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

This collection consists of research material collected by John Philips Cranwell and William Bowers Crane for their book Men of Marque: a history of private armed vessels out of Baltimore during the War of 1812. The Book was published in 1940 by W. W. Norton & Co. [E360.C73]

Controlled Access Headings

Occupation(s)

- Baltimore privateers
- Privateering

Personal Name(s)

- Crane, William Bowers
- Cranwell, John Philips

Subject(s)

- Commerce
- Embargo Act of 1812
- Letters of marque
- Ship names
- Shipping

Collection Inventory

Series I: Introductory Materials	Box 1	Folder 1-6
	Box	**Folder**
Insurance records-Baltimore Privateers, War of 1812	1	1
List of private armed vessels	1	2
List of owners of vessels, 1812-1815	1	3
List of First Lieutenants of vessels	1	4
Prize lists-English and American	1	5
Prize lists by port of entry	1	6
Series II: Post Office Packets of 102 ships	**Box** 1-4	**Folder** 7-113
	Box	**Folder**
Active	1	7
Adeline	1	8
Amelia	1	9
America	1	10

Arab	1	11
Argo	1	12
Atalanta	1	13
Baltimore	1	14
Bono	1	15
Bordeaux	1	16
Brutus	1	17
Burrows	1	18
Caroline	2	19
Cashier	2	20
Chesapeake	2	21
Clara	2	22
Climax	2	23
Commodore Decatur	2	24

Contradiction	2	25
Cora	2	26
Cossack	2	27
Courier	2	28
Daedalus	2	29
Dash	2	30
Decatur	2	31
Delille	2	32
Diamond	2	33
Dolphin	2	34
Eagle	2	35
Eliza	2	36
Engineer	2	37
Expedition	2	38

Experiment	2	39
Express	2	40
Fairy	2	41
Falcon	2	42
Female	2	43
Flight	2	44
Fox	2	45
General Pike	2	46
Globe	2	47
Grampus	2	48
Grecian	2	49
Halcyon	3	50
Harpy	3	51
Harrison	3	52

Herald	3	53
Heron	3	54
Highflier	3	55
Hollins	3	56
Hornet	3	57
Hornet-Lookout	3	58
Hussar	3	59
Inca	3	60
Java	3	61
Joseph & Mary	3	62
Kemp	3	63
Lawrence	3	64
Leo (Lyon, Lion)	3	65
Liberty	3	66

Lottery	3	67
Lynx	3	68
Macedonian	3	69
Mommoth	3	70
Maria	3	71
Midas	3	72
Ned	3	73
Nonsuch	3	74
Patapsco	3	75
Perry	3	76
Phaeton	3	77
Pike	3	78
Pilot	3	79
Pioneer	3	80

Price (Staples-Patriot)	3	81
Racer	4	82
Rapid	4	83
Resolution	4	84
Revenge	4	85
Rolla	4	86
Sabine	4	87
Sarah Ann	4	88
Saranac	4	89
Shepherd	4	90
Siro	4	91
Sparrow	4	92
Spartan	4	93
Surprise	4	94

Swallow	4	95
Sydney	4	96
Sylph	4	97
Syren	4	98
Tartar	4	99
Thetis	4	100
Tomahawk	4	101
Tom (Townsend)	4	102
Transit	4	103
Tuckahoe	4	104
Tyro	4	105
Ultor	4	106
Viper	4	107
Wasp	4	108

Whig	4	109
York	4	110
Miscellaneous vessels #1 (21 ships) Charles, Chippewa, Croghank, Eleanor, Eutaw, Father & Son, Garonne, Governor Shelby, Manleus, Moro, Orb, Oriental, Rossie, Saturn, Saturn Swift, Torpedo, Valona, Venus, Vidette, Wave	4	111
Miscellaneous vessels #2 (7 ships) Catch-Me-If-You-Can, Gallant Hull, Leonidus, Matchless, Philaeni, Von Hollen, Water Witch	4	112
Miscellaneous vessels list	4	113